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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides novel polynucleotides encoding K+betaM2 polypeptides, fragments and homologues thereof. Also provided are vectors, host cells, antibodies, and recombinant and synthetic methods for producing said  
10 polypeptides. The invention further relates to diagnostic and therapeutic methods for applying these novel K+betaM2 polypeptides to the diagnosis, treatment, and/or prevention of various diseases and/or disorders related to these polypeptides. The invention further relates to screening methods for identifying agonists and antagonists of the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention.

1055884.012402